

REMARKS

The Applicant acknowledges the facsimile of May 25, 2006 from Examiner Parsley in which an amendment to Claim 1 was proposed. The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his consideration of this matter.

In response to this facsimile, Claim 1, as presented herein, has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Some further amendments have however, been made, as discussed herein below. It is believed though that these additional amendments do not significantly alter the suggested claim provided by the Examiner.

In response to the Office Action of March 7, 2006, the Applicant therefore comments as follows.

Rejection Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10 to 12 and 14 to 16 currently stand as being rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over US Patent No. 5460306 ("Rudd"), in view of US Patent No. 6089524 (hereinafter "Lai"). However, in the facsimile message of May 25, 2006, it was indicated that the rejection under 35 USC 103 would be obviated by adopting the proposed amendments. As such, in view of the arguments previously presented, and since Claim 1 has been amended in the fashion proposed by the Examiner, it is therefore believed that the rejection under 35 USC 103 has been obviated and should, after further consideration by the Examiner, be withdrawn.

Amended Claim 1 presented herein, is essentially identical to the claim proposed by the Examiner. However, the number of guideposts has been changed to "at least one guidepost" from "a plurality of guideposts". The main feature of the guidepost is to engage the slot, and in the drawings, only one guidepost is used in this fashion. The other guidepost is merely a rest for the bottom of the retaining member.

Further, while the slot can extend to the top of the retaining member, this is not essential, and the claim has been amended to indicate that the slot extends near, or to, the end of the retaining member. Additionally, the slot is preferably positioned opposite to the horizontal opening, however, this is not essential. As such, this feature has also been removed from the proposed claim.

Also, it is felt that the horizontal opening on the retaining member does not need to be a substantially multiple curved opening. As such, this feature has been removed from proposed Claim 1.

In view of these amendments, Claims 2 and 14 have now been cancelled since these features are unnecessary over amended Claim 1. Claims 17 to 20, however, have been added and are directed to subject matter which has been removed from the claim suggested by the Examiner.

It is believed that these amendments do not significantly vary from the scope of the claim proposed by the Examiner, and that the newly added features remaining in the amended claim still clearly differentiate the present invention from the prior art.

As a result, in view of the amendments made herein and the comments presented hereinabove, the Applicant contends that the present invention is now allowable, and early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Gowan Intellectual Property



Gowan Intellectual Property
1075 North Service Road West
Suite 203
Oakville, Ontario
CANADA L6M 2G2
T: 905-827-5000
F: 905-827-5087

Per: Gerald A. Gowan
Registered Patent & Trade-Mark Agent
US Registration No. 37,041 / US Client No. 58388
email: ggowan@gowanip.com
GAG:jm